ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD™

EXE

image

33
FEB

•FINCH•

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ROBERT KIRKMAN

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COLORISTA *ROTULISTA*
DAVE McCAIG **RUS WOOTON**

PORTADAS
DAVID FINCH + DAVE McCAIG
CHARLIE ADLARD + DAVE McCAIG
MIKE DEL MUNDO

EDITOR
AMANDA LAFRANCO

LOGOTIPO + DISEÑO *PRODUCCIÓN*
ANDRES JUAREZ **JILLIAN CRAB**

CREADOR DE THE WALKING DEAD
ROBERT KIRKMAN

ANTERIORMENTE:

Con la ayuda de Martínez, Rick y Glenn liberaron a Michonne y planearon escapar de Woodbury junto con el Doctor Stevens y Alice, quienes habían decidido unirse a ellos y dejar atrás a esa depravada comunidad. Pero a la salida del pueblo, Michonne cambió sus planes. Aún tenía asuntos pendientes con el Gobernador y lo localizó con la intención de cobrar su venganza.

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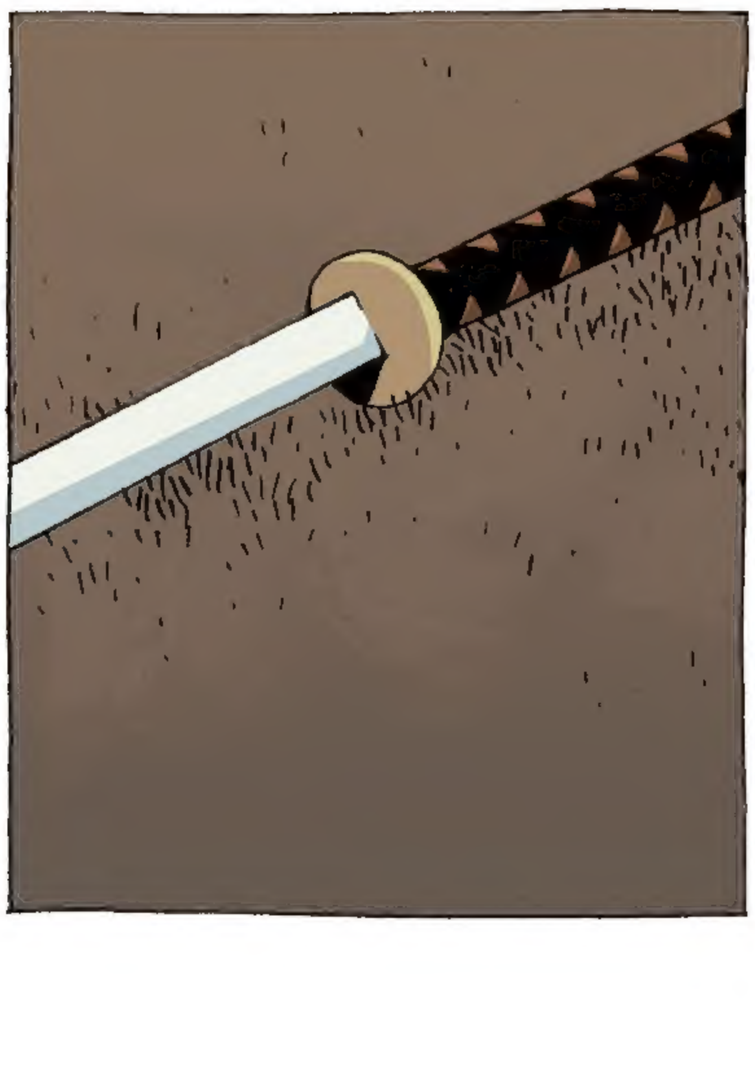


¡NO!

KRAK!

WHUDD!

¡¡HUWAGGG!!

=¡KOFF!=

=¡KOFF!=

NO QUERÍA QUE ESTO FUERA RÁPIDO.

NO QUIERO QUE SE ACABE.

WHUMP!

WHUDD!

IIHRRKK!!

¡¡AAAHHHH!!

=¡UFF!=

=¡UFF!=

MALDITA--

MALD--

MALDITA ZORRA.

WHUD!

WHUD!

WHUD!

*

DESPIERTA, *GILIPOLLAS.*

POR FIN-- CREÍ QUE ***NUNCA*** TE IBAS A DESPERTAR.

TE DESMAYASTE POR ***SEGUNDA*** VEZ CUANDO TE CLAVÉ LA POLLA EN EL TABLERO EN EL QUE ESTÁS. ¿LO ***RECUERDAS?*** NO ME ***MOVERÍA*** MUCHO SI FUERA TÚ.

NO TE PREOCUPES POR LA NIÑA--LA HE METIDO EN EL CUARTO DE ATRÁS--DONDE TENÍAS TODA ESTA BASURA. ¿QUÉ ESTÁS HACIENDO--? ¿CONSTRUIR UNA ***CELDA*** PARA TU PEQUEÑA--***ESCLAVA SEXUAL?*** POR CIERTO, ¿POR QUÉ LA TIENES AQUÍ?

NI SIQUIERA ***QUIERO*** SABERLO.

ESTOY IMPACIENTE POR EMPEZAR.

COMENZARÉ HACIENDO *UNA PRESENTACIÓN.* VOY A USAR *TODO* LO QUE HAY AQUÍ CONTIGO ANTES DE QUE *MUERAS.*

PRIMERO-- *ALICATES.*

A CONTINUACIÓN, UN *MARTILLO.* YA LO HE USADO UN *POCO* CONTIGO.

SOPLETE DE ACETILENO--ADEMÁS, PARECE CASI *LLENO.* QUÉ *BIEN.* LO USABAS PARA *COCINAR.*

TAMBIÉN LO HARÉ YO.

TE VA A *ENCANTAR* LO QUE HAGA CON *ESTO.*

TALADRO ELÉCTRICO--DEBES DE HABERLO CARGADO EN EL ESTADIO... LA BATERÍA ESTÁ *A TOPE.*

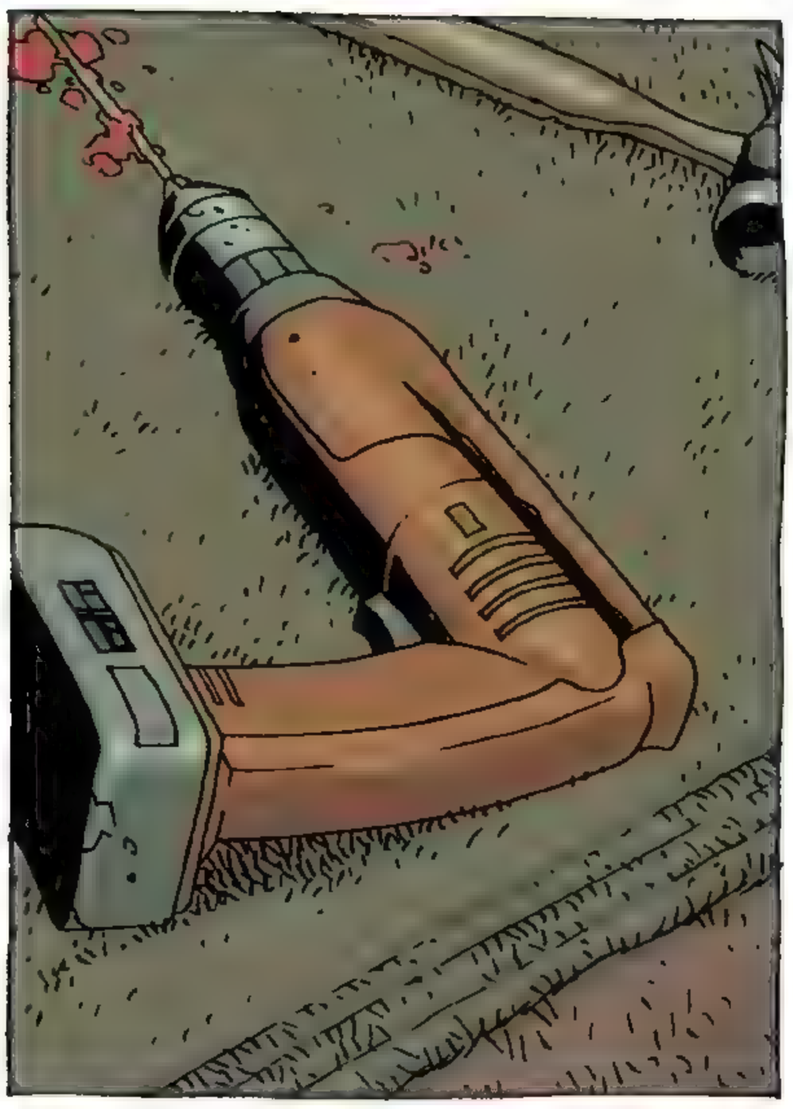
CREO QUE *EMPEZAREMOS* CON ESTO.

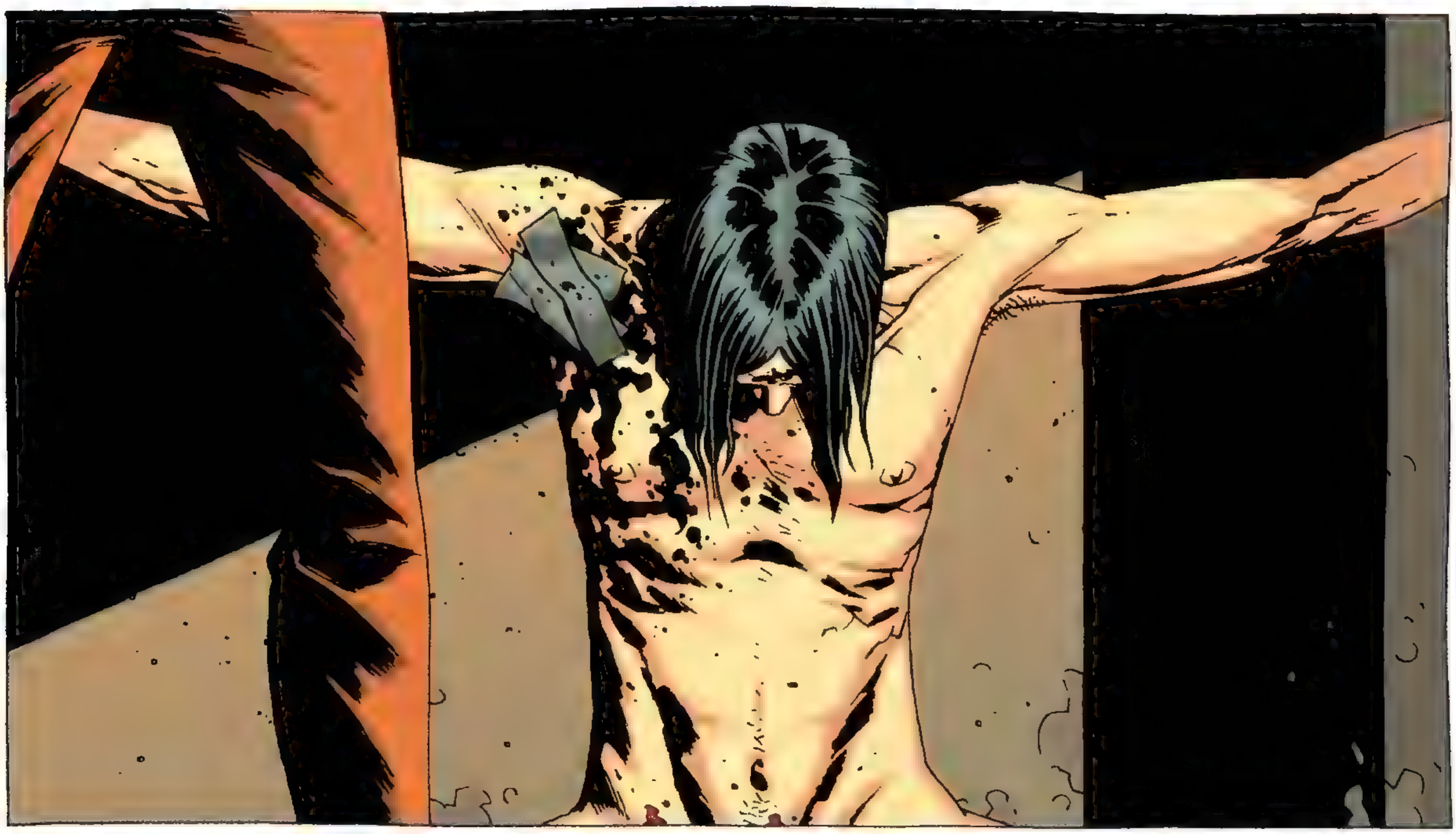
MMMP.

BBZZZZZZ.

¡¡¡MMMMGGGH!!!

BBZZZZZZ.





¡EWACK!

¡DES-
PIERTA!

ESTO TE VA A ENCAN-TAR.

SHRKK!

¡MMLURGGH!

SKRRK!

¡MRRGH!

SHKK!

AHORA ESA MANO ESTÁ *HECHA POLVO.*

MUY *HECHA POLVO.*

SHUKK!!

¡¡MMPPPHHH!!

TRANQUILO-- CREO QUE PUEDO DETENER LA HEMORRA-GIA.

PSSSH!

¡MHUNGG!

ESTÁS DESPIERTO.

BIEN.

NG.

SHKK!

ESTO TE DOLERÁ UN RATO.

Y CREÍA QUE METERLA ERA DIFÍCIL.

KRAK!

CREO QUE TE HE PATEADO *MUY FUERTE.* PARECE QUE ALGO SE HA *DESGARRADO.*

NO TE ME DESMAYES-- *AÚN* NO HEMOS TERMINADO.

NPH.

NGG.

¡¡MNNAGGGHH!!

¡HWAAGGGH!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

¡¡GOBERNADOR!! ¡¿ESTÁS AHÍ *DENTRO*?!

¡¡EH--PHIL!! ¡ABRE! ¡LA PUTA LOCA SE HA *IDO*, TÍO! ¡EL DOCTOR Y ALICE--Y LOS OTROS DOS TAMBIÉN!

¿QUÉ LE HA PASADO A TU *PUERTA*?

¡DIGA ALGO, SEÑOR!

¡VAMOS A *ENTRAR*!

KROOM!

KROOM!

PARECE QUE LO QUE QUEDA DE ESA COSA PODRÍA *CURARSE* SI SOBREVIVES A ESTO.

Y NO QUEREMOS QUE PASE *ESO.*

SHKK!

KROOM!

KROOM!!

¡GRUHH!

¡JODER--! ¡¡ESTÁ AQUÍ!!

¡ATRA-PADLA!

¡JODER!

¡JODER!

¡JODER!

¡QUE NO SE ACERQUE A ÉL!

¡JODER!

GOBERNADOR, ¡OH--JODER!

¿QUÉ HAY DE LA CHICA?

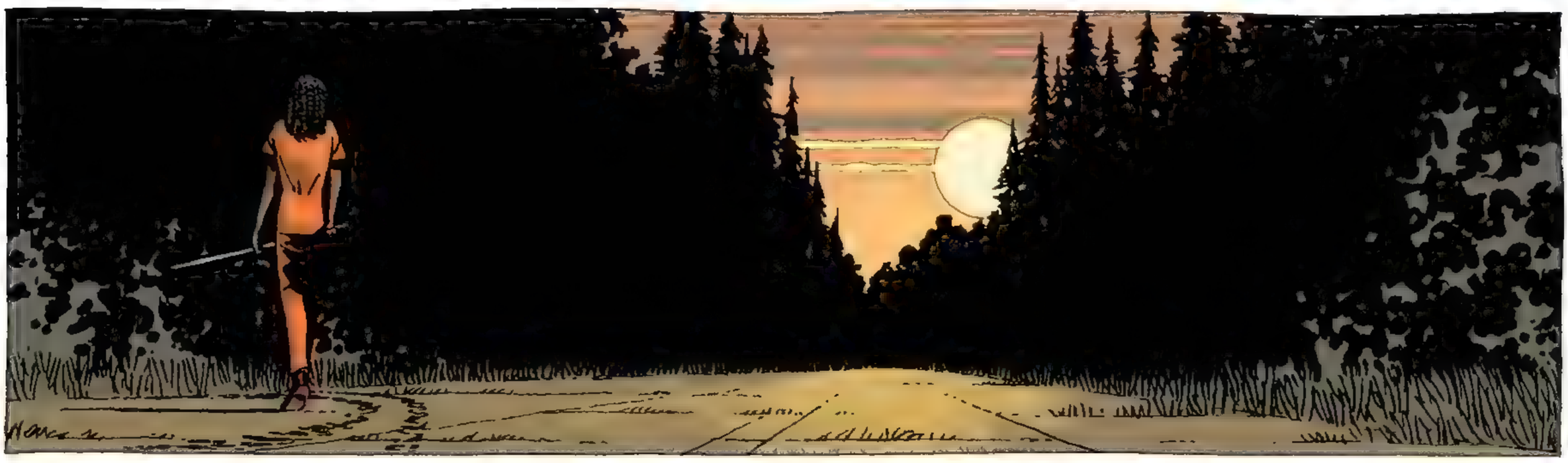
QUE LA *JODAN*. AHORA ESTÁ FUERA DE LA *ZONA SEGURA*. NO TIENE NINGUNA *POSIBILIDAD*.

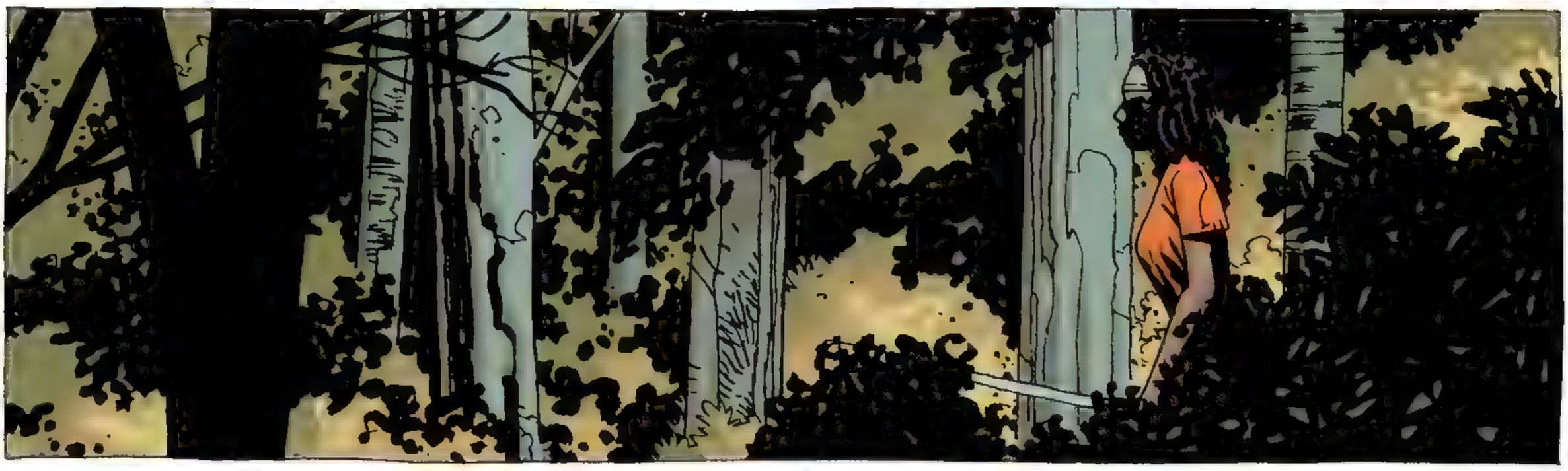
¿Y ÉL?

¿ESTÁ *MUERTO*?

WAL★MART

BIENVENIDO A
WOODBURY
POBLACIÓN 1102





THUNK!

¡¡MICHONNE!!

¿RICK?

ANOCHE CREÍMOS QUE NO PODRÍAMOS LLEGAR HASTA EL COCHE--NI A LA PRISIÓN--ASÍ QUE DORMIMOS AQUÍ PARA REFUGIARNOS. O POR LO MENOS LO *INTENTAMOS.*

TÚ--¿CÓMO HAS LLEGADO HASTA AQUÍ TAN RÁPIDO? ¿HAS CAMINADO TODA LA *NOCHE?*

HE CAMINADO TODA LA NOCHE, SÍ. TUVE QUE SALIR A *TODA PRISA.*

¿DÓNDE ESTÁ ESE DOCTOR?

ÉL--NO LO CONSI-GUIÓ.

...

¿QUÉ HAY DEL GOBERNADOR--ESTÁ--?

¿LE HAS *MATADO?*

¿MATAR? ¿MATAR A *QUIÉN?* NO SÉ A QUÉ TE REFIERES, RICK.

...

VENGA-- VOLVAMOS A *CASA.*

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Welcome back, folks! Amanda here, finally letting out a breath I'd been holding since Rick and company arrived in Woodbury. They're finally free of that hell-town and yet, I'm still very on edge. It could be the zombies no doubt lurking between the group and the prison, or it could be the still very open-ended fate of The Governor. Who can say? What I can say, is that we've got a sampling of classic letters here which have me much less anxious. Let's dive in!

Well, this issue was a bit intense, right? Sorry if you weren't expecting that. To be honest, I really wasn't expecting it either. It all seemed right to me as far as how the story was going. I mean, let's be honest--the Governor deserved it right?

Sure.

Let's answer a bit of mail, shall we?

Kirkman,
Just an idea. So many fans have asked how much time passes in between plot threads. And the baby is a great mechanism to show that. How about an issue with a ticking clock to show exactly how slow time passes?

Well, the thing about keeping it vague is that I don't have to be completely precise when it comes to the passage of time. It's just not in my best interest to lay it all out so readers can catch me make a mistake. I know roughly how much time is passing, and when, but making that public would just lead to confusion.

Walking Dead is by far the best character driven comic out there. Please follow up on the idea of how society would develop when it is isolated. Bigomy. Entertainment. Goverment. Religion hasn't been brought up much though. Thanx.

Todd C. Herbst

You'll see plenty about religion before long. I've got to get through my gratuitous violence stage first.

Hello Mr. Kirkman--

We in Canada love the Walking Dead and we especially love arena death matches. Issue thirty-one was sweet. $@*% another cliff hanger? Cripes it makes me feel like a junkie as soon as I finish reading an issue I'm already jonesn' for another fix.

That's the idea!

I tried Day of the dead, Omega man, 28 Days later, nothing fills/stops the cravings. The recolored Battle Pope helps, though.

That makes next to no sense... but if it gets you reading, all the better!

I work at a comic store and the trades are great to get the kids hooked they read one then come back for 2-4 the next like clock work then the weak willed ones usually succumb to the issues. Thanks for the awesome book!

From the frozen north
Riley Rossmo

Thanks for reading--and writing!

Robert,

Just wanted to check in and let you know how good the current WD arc is. Can't wait to see where we're going on this ride. On a different note, I really enjoy the letter column, and I think its pretty cool that you print so many of them. I like hearing readers ideas, questions and suggestions as well as your responses. This is my second time writing to you (1st one was published, thank you very much) and I'm not sure if you have ever covered this or not. Have you considered another ongoing title set in the Walking Dead universe? I mean whole different set of people in another city altogether. I know you did that small follow up in the Image Christmas 05 special, I just thought that there might be some room in the backdrop you created for additional groups of people dealing with Zombies in other locations.

Just a thought. Talk you soon. Keep up the

good work. Tell Charlie to keep it up too.

Clyde in NJ

A second series with new characters isn't the worst idea in the world. There was a time early on where I had actually considered the idea. In the end I decided against it because I think expanding the book into a line of books would eventually weaken the popularity of this series and hurt sales and possibly sabotage this book. I want to write this book for a good long time. I'm not after the quick cash, I just want to tell my stories.

So yeah, only one book for the time being.

It appears the stars have aligned and I must write, for in the last issue you asked for favourite obscure zombie movies and boy have I got an obscure one for ya! Plus you seemed to dig the chick letters so here's another for you. First the gratuitous "OMG I love you man". I do. You are a sick and deviant mind and your work, and the work of the rest of the Walking Dead team of course, is incredible. The black and white style is amazing and the perfect choice for such a graphic story. Letting the imagination fill in the colour delivers far more gore then you would ever really put to paper (or may be that's just me...). I love the fact that the storyline is really exploring how the most dangerous thing we can possibly face in any time of crisis is each other.

Guess I'll throw a Zombie question out there before I wrap this up (everybody's doin' it). I'll skip the "give me upcoming plot details" part of the question. I hope that's OK, but I kinda thought I'd let you tell the story. Here goes; Most plagues have symptoms other then your main one and also a certain percentage of people who seem to be immune. Why do you think we don't tend to see this in zombie plague stories?

Bad writing? On my part at least.

Here comes the obscurity, are you ready for it? My favourite obscure zombie flick is INTERCESSOR: ANOTHER ROCK AND ROLL NIGHTMARE. Why you might ask (and believe me if you had seen it you would ask)? Because I'm in it. I'm the Cop Zombie! I got to eat latex intestines and even had a couple of lines. It was a lot of fun to be part of something so very "B" and to be a creature that I love so much.

That's all she wrote,
Lisa Hudson

Man, I had to read this whole damn letter so you could promote some movie you're in. Jerk. Oh, well, any letter from a female reader is always worth printing.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Doing a fantastic job as always on the book. As far as other zombie movies go, here goes...
1-THE DEAD NEXT DOOR-Pretty ambitious for being shot on super 8.
2-ZOMBIE HOLOCAUST-How can you go wrong with Zombies AND Cannibals. Some of the lamest dialogue ever but gory.
3-NIGHTMARE CITY-Unintelligent zombies who can use automatic weapons, fun!
4-BLIND DEAD films-Great stuff. Zombie knights templar.
5-EROTIC NIGHTS OF THE LIVING DEAD-Don't even ask...D'Amato trying to merge horror with hardcore pornography
6-DELLAMORTE DELLAMORE-Fantastic! Soavi does a great job here of adapting the Dylan Dog italian comic book.
7-BURIAL GROUND-Horrible, but gory. Plus where else will you see an actor playing a mother's kid son older than the actress playing the mother!
8-HELL OF THE LIVING DEAD-A bad rip off of Dawn,right down to the music.
9-All the Fulci Zombie movies, GATES OF HELL,THE BEYOND, HOUSE BY THE CEMETARY, ZOMBIE, and ZOMBIE 3.

I'm sure there are others, but that's all I can think of right now...
Jeff Baughman

Thanks for the list, Jeff!

Hey Robert,

Just dropping another line, letting you know how much I'm digging the new direction the story's going in. It's a nice departure from the Romero-esque prison scene. Not that the prison's a bad setting (far from it), but the fortress mentality of these characters, while not unrealistic, reminds me too much of the sub-plots for a half dozen other zombie stories out there. To tell you the truth, it's the little touches in this town that I'm really enjoying. The scene with the screaming mother was particularly telling: bitch and scream all you want, but the men with the guns are the ones in control. Depending on your political bent, you could draw all kinds of metaphors from that page alone.

I'm sure I'll get angry letters from people doing just that.

Anyway, enough film school bull. A few comments, a few questions.

An issue or two back, one of your readers seemed to have a thunderous hard-on for the AK-47. This, of course, brings all kinds of uncomfortable images to mind (I wonder- does Charleton Heston have a pin-up calendar?) Regardless, the AK is a terrible weapon. Sure, you could beat a herd of cows to death with the thing, throw it in the mud, drop it in saltwater, and set it on fire and it'll keep firing...but does it fire accurately? Far from it. Unlike the M-16, the AK is a crudely machined bit of equipment, and when it fires the recoil causes the entire assembly to clatter like a loose set of keys, throwing your accuracy way off after the first shot. The rifle can also be fired on full auto, leading too many users to give in to temptation and uselessly "rock and roll." I'm not at all into guns, but I've had the chance to fire an AK, and I know enough about the weapons' history to know that the rifle would be a poor choice for the zombie survivalist. Martinez has the right idea, when he tells Rick he's helping him escape. A single shot, scoped rifle would be the most logical choice.

I'm totally canceling that AK-47 I've had on layaway. Thanks for the advice.

I don't know if you've addressed this before, but when exactly does this story take place? The only reason I ask is that if the plague began after the invasion of Iraq, it'd go a long way to explaining why you don't see more military hardware or zombies in uniform.

I imagine issue 1 took place around October of 2003 and we're roughly 7 or 8 months after that by now, creeping into summer of 2004.

When you get the chance, you should check out "Word War Z." Great book, kind of a "Longest Day" version of a zombie plague.

It's on my to-read list.

Sorry 'bout the last letter, didn't think you'd throw up. But you know, zombie feces and all.... it kind of makes sense.

Oh, one last thing. Rick needs a hook. A big, shiny, fuck off chrome job that'd make Peter Pan soil himself. And an eye patch. I guess a parrot might be too much to hope for.

Looking forward to more carnage,
C.S.

P.S. Tell Charlie, Cliff and Rus they're doing fine work.

Charlie, Cliff and Rus--I just wanted to say, you're doing fine work!

Dear Robert Kirkman,
I'm writing this mail in order to want you to know that you have lots of fans in Turkey :)

That's cool to know. I'm a HUGE fan of turkey (note lack of capitalization).

In Turkey we do not have local comic book shops everywhere like you guys have so it's really difficult to track down the new comics. That's why I happened to know your awesome masterpiece late enough to miss few first issues (to be honest, I missed nearly 20 issues). But in Turkey we have proverbs saying that It's never too late to mend and A fault confessed is half redressed. So I began to track the Walking Dead from 19th issue. From there on I add a copy of "Walking Dead" to my shopping cart every month. At this point I must thank the DCP team for helping me to cover the missed issues.

Wow--I'm sorry it's such a chore to get books over there. Don't sweat coming onto the book late. What matters most is that you're here now.

From my childhood to my adulthood I have a keen interest in walking dead stuff. I have watched the Romero' s quadrilogy more than a couple of times (do not know the number exactly). Like Master Romero, in the Walking Dead you have created the atmosphere so good that when reading there were sometimes that I have totally collapsed. More over the "human psychology in the shitty conditions" that you reflect make me to think once more about the survival ethics. What I am trying to say in short is you are genius :) Thank you so much! Not only you but all the team!

That's all from Turkey now.

Lot's of respects,
Can Kartoglu

P.S: I have enjoyed reading "Marvel Zombies", that was F-U-N!

Glad you liked it.

Dear Kirk-THE-Man,

I just read your interview with CBR News where you mention zombie stories are meant to show the changes that would happen to society over time. I couldn't agree more, and I love

that you realize the story potential that you are doing with TWD.

With the unnecessary praise done, let's get down to business. In TWD №29, the Governor gives his daughter a hand to eat, presumably Rick's. In the first panel it's clearly a left hand, but it was Rick's right hand that was cut off. In the next panel, it magically becomes a right hand. Even though it's implied that the hand is Rick's, I suppose you could say the first hand was from a person in the helicopter crash, given to the daughter first off panel, and the second hand shown is Rick's. I doubt I'm the first to notice this, but what do you say, do I get a no-prize? Or how about a decayed-prize, expired-prize, etc.

Until I see a Battle Pope, Capes, Invincible, Science Dog, TWD crossover (actually I'd love to see that),
-efcufochr

Your no prize is in the mail.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I always figured US creators and other related lifeforms would be glad and surprised to hear their work is read and appreciated so far away from home... and I all I ever get from you is a "so you're European, big deal". Bendis actually corrected my list of his Spanish-published work once, when I wrote to congratulate him about it. He CORRECTED it.

Can a bald American be any more arrogant than that? I guess he doesn't realize I could kill him and still get a year of pre-scripted Bendis books, which means he's not completely safe from my wrath.

So no list for you, Mr. Kirkman.

So you're European? Big deal!

I will, however, tell you a little story about my friends and co-workers. I've been following your work on its original American format since TWD's first issue. When it started getting published in Spain (5 issues at a time, almost one book every six months -- can't you fix that somehow?) and I saw the first issue while hanging out in a local comic store with other people I suffered something that vaguely resembled an asthma attack, which surprisingly got several of my friends to buy the book. Well, that and the gorgeous black and white art.

Flash forward a year or two (your book really comes out too slowly here, Mr. Kirkman), when a friend of mine went to London with his girlfriend. There, he saw an unpublished book of TWD and carelessly took a peek inside. This had two effects:

1) My friend saw Rick with his hand cut off. A sizable force of security guards and worried girlfriends had to prevent him from gouging his eyeballs out with a Wolverine action figure.

It's easier with a Spider-Man figure.

2) I finally had somebody to talk to about the last story arc of the book. I was dying here. I knew all these important things about rape and mutilation while everybody else was still talking about how cool Rick's speech at the end of the last book was. I feel much better now, thanks.

So there you go. Greetings from Spain. By the way, this eyeless friend of mine also loved Marvel Zombies. I didn't read it when he did. Now that I've had to survive months of him randomly bringing it up in the middle of unrelated conversations I think I never will. Nothing personal, of course.

Keep it up. Faster.
Néstor Forján

We're trying to do the books faster here in the states. As far as foreign reprints go, I don't have much control over that stuff. It's pretty much up to the foreign publishers when the books ship.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Awesome job. You are an inspiration. I'm a writer myself but not for comics. Anyways, one thing that really bugs me is, are you planning on including Morgan and Duane Jones in any future issues? Like I always imagined Rick and his group meeting up with the Jones' and them having their own group. Maybe for a battle against a huge zombie army? I don't know, I'm just talking out of my ass. But seriously, I would love to see the Jones' come back and I'm sure I'm not alone in this.

Awesomely sincere,
Will C.

I want them back in the book more than anyone, trust me. I always intended to bring them back. It's just taking me a while to figure out a believable way to get them back into the book. It'll happen, though.

Damn you, Kirkman.

I've been an avid comic book fan my entire life. Most of my childhood was spent with my nose in an Avengers book, or something involving the X-Men. As I grew into my teens and beyond, I kept up with my favorite mags. Eventually it got to the point where I just waited for the trade paperbacks to come out, so I could get great lumps of the story all at once.

That's how it's been for me- wait till the trade comes out. I remember my brother exclaiming how somebody named Onslaught was going to kill everyone but the X-Men. I was tempted to pick up individual issues, but I held off. When Grant Morrison came to write the X-Men I was excited, but did I pick up individual issues? Nope. I waited, and lo and behold, the trades came out on a regular basis and I kept up with the story. When Infinite Crisis, and Identity Crisis before it, blasted onto the shelves I remained in control and isolated myself from my favorite websites, lest I discover something that would ruin the story when I read it in its entirety. Currently, even as intrigued as I am about Marvel's current Civil War storyline, I'm waiting. I'd rather read it in a collected volume.

So I say again, damn you, Kirkman.

My brother let me know about The Walking Dead a couple of years back. He recommended it highly. As he's as much a connoisseur of zombie fiction as I am (my brother and I were both traumatized by a young viewing of "Dawn of the Dead", and to this day do not go into malls without scoping out defensive positions first), I knew I had to check this book out. Luckily the first trade had already been published, so I picked it up-and was absolutely enthralled. Clearly this was a book written for zombie fans by a zombie fan. It had everything I wanted- gruesome hordes of the undead, great artwork and characters that were so well- written I caught myself actually feeling wretched when one or the other got bitten. I still mist up when I re-read the first trade and see Jim's long, slow decline into zombiehood. That's good stuff, man.

And yet I still held out, stubborn cuss that I am, from buying the individual issues. I eagerly snatched up the trades when they came out, and at least the first three ended story arcs so I didn't have to wait to see how a cliffhanger resolved itself.

Everything was going so well until you threw that damned helicopter into the mix. My brother bought me the latest trade for my birthday, and I immediately excluded myself from the rest of my family to tear through it. A helicopter? Cool. It stands to reason that others are out there with aircraft. Rick's group couldn't be the only ones left. Going out to check the crash with riot gear? Makes perfect sense- I've been reading about the group's adventures in the prison for a year now, so why didn't it ever occur to me that they should have riot gear laying around someplace?

Then they got to Woodbury. And they met the Governor. And Rick's hand was chopped off, and Michonne was raped and brutalized. And I realized the bloody trade paperback had less than 20 pages left. And then I realized something else: there was no way I would be able to leave these characters in limbo until the next trade came out.

So I say one last time: damn you, Kirkman.

I just bought issue №31, and half-read the thing in the car on the way home while I was driving because I couldn't wait to see what happens next. Marvel was unable to suck me back in to buying issues month by month. DC couldn't do it either. But your story about Rick and his people trying to survive a zombie apocalypse did it. Now I'm going to be one of those people awaiting your book each and every month, gathering in front of the local comic book shop the day it's realized, ready to devour your story as soon as I can sink my teeth into it... hey, that sounds kind of familiar, huh?

You write one mean story, Mr. Kirkman, and you've hooked me. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Thanks for that.
Rob Casaletta

Cool. The more people I can pull from the TPBs to get on the singles the better. You don't want to miss out on these wildly entertaining letters columns, right?

The Walking Dead changed my life!

Okay, maybe that was a little dramatic but I can say that I have no idea how I didn't read this book before now. I loved Marvel Zombies and I am really digging your work on Ultimate X-Men (the Shi'ar as a Scientology-like religion is brilliant) but until last week I had never picked up a copy of Walking Dead or Invincible. A friend of mine had been telling me that I really should be reading your other books. So I got my hands on collections of Walking Dead and Invincible and I am loving them so freaking much. I read through Walking Dead in a few days - I just could not put it down - and now I am on the second trade of Invincible and I think I have a new favorite super-hero book.

Thanks for coming around--but you only read my Marvel stuff for a while? FOR SHAME!

But back to my homeboy Rick and the rest of the walking dead - I am so in love with this book and these characters (even though you keep killing them). This has to be the most ingenious use of zombies in recent memory (Shaun of the Dead coming in second). Your focus on the emotional impact on the survivors gives the book such depth and soul. I can't say enough about it. And so far Invincible is the best super-hero book I have read in a long time. Your writing has really inspired me to get off my butt and pick up a pen. A friend of mine and I have an idea for a story for some time and reading your work has really inspired me to move forward with this.

I guess my only questions for now are:
1. Do you have a planned ending for Walking Dead? How long to you plan the series to run?

I would like the series to go on as long as humanly possible. I'd be happy to do 300 issues. No planned ending in mind. I'll wrap it up when it's time... until then, I'll play it by ear.

2. Any chance Rick is going to pull an Ash and fix a chainsaw to his newly made stub? Perhaps a boomstick?

No chance.

3. Would you suggest self-publishing or trying to get published as a new writer?

-- Chris Gray

Yes, but it's very difficult. You need to be sure that it's something you want to do.

My greatest praises to you, Lord Kirkman,

TWD is by far the greatest comic book i have ever read. Infact, it was the first one i started reading religiously, and now is the only one i can afford on my meager paycheck. I got a girlfriend, so now I have to cut back on my comic book budget, but TWD will always be bought, every month. I've been pimping TWD to all my freinds. Enough praises for you. Now for Questions.

1) What about those two dudes back in Rick's Home town, are they alive, will we even know? Will they show back up!

See previous letter.

2) Tyreese said he wouldn't give up looking for Rick till he "See his body," too bad that dead body would try to eat him... Just thought that was funny.

Good point.

3) What's up with the Governers family! Why are they Zombies!? The doctor said something about it, but it just raised more questions than it answered!

All will be revealed in time.

4) Rick only has one hand, any chance he'll pull an Ash Williams and replace it with a chainsaw? I know your all thinking this, just no one had the balls to ask.

No chance.
5) Still about Rick's hand, the hand that was severed, that was the hand he broke to hell on the guys face, right? That means he still has one good hand... right?! I looked though the whole book, making sure, over and over, but i'm still not content.

Yes, his bad hand was the one that was severed.

6) How old is Carl now? He's acting more older than i thought he was, taking care of his mom and all... Is it just forced maturity, in an apocalyptic world, or is he like 13 now?

Only 7 months or so have passed since the first issue. Carl is just growing up due to the situation he's in.

Well, that's all i have time for. Goodbye Kirkman, and Kudos to Marvel Zombies.

-TheWordSayer

Thanks!

Mr. Kirkman:

I'm a very big fan of the Walking Dead series. I really do enjoy what you are doing with it. I read the first three trades & then I decided to go monthly. I simply did that because I just couldn't wait for the next trade six months down the line. But, I'm afraid to say that Walking Dead №31 will be my last monthly issue. It's not that I don't like the series. I really do. But, the duration of the delays between the monthly issues is getting out of hand. I find it hard to sit down and enjoy the story. Getting 22 pages once every 6 to sometimes 8 weeks just kills the enjoyment of the story. I will though continue to purchase the trades. It was the trades that made me a fan. It was the monthly

issues that cooled my interest. I will miss those great letter pages. But, what can I do?

Please do keep up the great work. After all, I will be following the trade paperback editions.

AA

The delays have not been the most ideal of situations, true, but hopefully in the coming months that will really, and truly be behind us. I got hit with a number of things this year that slowed me down, one of which was the birth of my first child. The Marvel books continued to ship on time because I only have to turn in a script for them. I do far more behind the scenes stuff on my Image books and that's where the delays came in. I'm getting a better handle on it now. The schedule should be rock-solid throughout 2007... we'll see.

Greetings from the Great White North,

In my younger days I was what you might call a comiholic. My parents took me out every Saturday to the local variety store to by my weekly fix of Spiderman, Batman, Swamp Thing, Creepy, Superman, and so on.

Good parents.

But time marches on and I gave up my collection and moved on to novels and movies, leaving behind the illustrated worlds of my youth.

I married and had kids, and unlike me they never had the opportunity to read the comics that brought me so much joy.

Then one day on Ebay I noticed a Trade Paperback that caught my eye. It was the first collection of The Walking Dead, and from that time I've been hooked. I bought the next collection and then one title became two, two became three and... well you can guess the rest. I now subscribe to tons of titles and have made my online subscription service very happy. Even my kids are hooked now, and I have to defend my stash against the little stinkers, otherwise I'm searching for missing issues.

But by far my favorite comic is still The Walking Dead.

I find it as stimulating as any novel I've read, and as addicting as any TV show or movie series I've come across. Without the characters and story lines you've developed, I and my family would never have experienced what I feel is the rebirth of the comic industry.

Bravo people!!!

It's always nice to hear about this book getting people back into comics. That's probably the most rewarding kind of praise this book could get. Comics are a fantastic form of entertainment (my favorite) and it pains me that so many people have lost their way and given it up.

And I just finished reading issue №31.

WTF do you mean... a new chapter?!

Don't you dare kill off Rick!!
I just about crapped myself when you cut off his hand !!

Always a fan,
Frank Sperberg.

Wait a minute--DON'T kill Rick? You don't want me to kill him? Crap.

Dear Robert Kirkman,

In the hardcover of TWD you mention that "Night of the Living Dead" somehow fell into the public domain. I just saw a TV interview with the director, George Romero, and he answered that question. He was originally going to call the movie "Night of the Flesh Eaters." When he changed the title, the distributor changed the original title to NOTLD, but forgot to put the copyright notice on the film prints. At that time copyright law required it. Thus, lacking the notice, Romero eventually lost the copyright. The more you know.

Quick question so this isn't just a history lesson:
1. Will you ever deliberately release something of TWD into the public domain?

-Anthony Benitez

Why would I release any part of The Walking Dead into public domain? It'll be there in a hundred years or so anyway... but seriously, the zombies are in public domain (and plenty of people are making money on those) so there's really nothing else to give. Odd question. Thanks for the info on NOTLD though, I didn't know about all that.

See you back here next month!

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 33

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD 33 NÚMERO DE TORTURA DEL GOBERNADOR

(1) PRIMER PLANO GOB + MICHONNE -- PLANOS DE REACCIÓN.
(2) GOB CORRE A POR LA ESPADA MICHONNE LE DA UNA PATADA EN LOS HUEVOS.
(3) GOB VOMITA CAE HACIA DELANTE MIRA A MICH... ELLA TIENE LA ESPADA... "BUENO, ¿AQUÍ SE ACABA?"
(4) MICH LE NOQUEA. "NI POR ASOMO."
(5) ¿EN NEGRO? TE DESMAYASTE OTRA VEZ CUANDO TE CLAVÉ LA POLLA EN EL TABLERO
(6) DESPIERTA. PILILA CLAVADA EN UN TABLERO.... AMORDAZADO.
APUESTO QUE CARGASTE ESTO EN EL ESTADIO -- BIEN POR TI.
(7) PANELES ANCHOS MUESTRA TALADRO -- ALICATES -- CUCHILLOS LO QUE SEA -- CINTA ADHESIVA MARTILLO.
(8) LE PERFORA CON EL TALADRO... LE PONE CINTA.
(9) ¿LE ARRANCA LAS UÑAS?
(10) ¿LE CORTA LA MANO? ¿LE QUEMA EL EXTREMO?
(11) SE DESMAYA... ¿MÁS EN NEGRO?
(12) ¿LE METE COSAS POR EL CULO?
(13) LE ARRRANCA LAS UÑAS.
(14) TIPOS EN LA PUERTA. PILILA CORTADA... ¿NIÑA DESATADA?
(15) HOMBRES GRITANDO, GOLPEANDO LA PUERTA.
(16) MICHONNE ESCAPA. HOMBRES ENTRAN POR LA FUERZA.
(17) QUE SE JODA. ESTÁ FUERA DE LA ZONA SEGURA -- ESTÁ MUERTA!
(18) (19) CAMINANDO AL DÍA SIGUIENTE -- POR LA MAÑANA.
(20) RICK + COMPAÑÍA DURMIERON EN EL HELICÓPTERO.
(21) CHARLA ¿DÓNDE ESTÁ EL DOCTOR? MUERTO... LE HAS--
(22) ¿LE HAS MATADO? ESPERO QUE NO.

Vale... con que... aquí estamos, el número de la tortura del Gobernador... tal como se observa en la parte superior de la trama escrita a mano.

Supongo que el objetivo de este número era la catarsis. Habíamos experimentado (pero no visto) las cosas terribles que el Gobernador le había hecho a Michonne. Hemos llegado a conocerle como el peor villano que este cómic ha visto hasta la fecha. Le cortó la mano a Rick. Le odiamos. Le odiamos con todas nuestras fuerzas. Así que en teoría, ¿queremos ver cómo le pasan cosas horribles?

Pero, ¿queremos?

Quería hacer un número tan desproporcionado, tan grotesco que aunque no sintierais compasión por el Gobernador, tal vez os preguntarais a vosotros mismos un poco por qué no. O, que al menos, lamentarais un poco que os invadiera una sensación de "oh, allá vamos" cuando el taladro perfora por primera vez al Gobernador.

De hecho, Charlie Adlard se negó a dibujar este número cuando vio el guion por primera vez. No de una forma confrontativa. Muy educadamente me animó a reconsiderar lo que había hecho y a reescribirlo. Algo que hizo en otra ocasión mucho más adelante en la serie y en la que por suerte, cedí y seguí su consejo.

Esta vez no cedí.

En aquel momento, era importante para mí que viéramos todas las cosas que le pasaran al Gobernador, por todos los motivos que ya he comentado aquí. Una de mis cosas favoritas de esta serie es explorar la perspectiva. Si no supiéramos lo que el Gobernador había hecho... pensaríamos que Michonne es un monstruo. Pero Michonne es una heroína. Estas acciones no enturbian mucho la opinión que tenemos de ella. Sin duda, era un personaje popular en el cómic y se volvió AÚN MÁS popular después de estos sucesos. Debido a la perspectiva. Nosotros estamos del lado de Michonne.

En cuanto le expliqué la intención que había detrás del número, que no estábamos regocijándonos en la violencia, que no intentábamos que el lector se sintiera incómodo, aceptó dibujarlo. Y os prometo que este número tampoco fue fácil para nosotros. Seguramente fue más difícil para nosotros soportar estas escenas, escribirlas y dibujarlas, de lo que fue para cualquiera leerlas.

Al volver a leerlas ahora... uff, es ABRUMADOR. Y pensándolo bien, TÍO, fue un número controvertido. Siempre traté de ser tan brutal como creía que este mundo podría llegar a ser y no rehuir las cosas... para bien o para mal, esa era la intención de este número.

En lo que se refiere a la trama, hay bastantes diferencias entre la trama y el guion de este número. Vamos allá.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1: Como cada número se colocará junto al anterior en las recopilaciones, siempre trato de escribir primeras páginas que encajen bien cuando se impriman junto a la última página del número anterior. Este fue un buen ejemplo. Se muestra la tensión de Michonne al aparecer en el apartamento del Gobernador, siguiendo la página a toda plana al final del número anterior.

2-3: Planificar la acción y luego trasladarla al guion es un proceso sencillo. Se puede ver que estas sencillas frases se traducen en páginas enteras. La razón es que los cómics se dividen en momentos, y la acción ha de tener una cierta cantidad de momentos para que tenga sentido y se pueda seguir.

4: Este intercambio entre Michonne y el Gobernador se cambió por completo en el número.

5: En vez de tener una página completa en negro después de que noqueara al Gobernador, alargué la pelea para que hubiera más acción entre él y Michonne. En su lugar, puse un panel pequeño en negro en la página 6. Mucho más razonable.

6: Sí. Pone pilita. Soy un crío. Siempre lo he sido y siempre lo seré. Este número era muy oscuro y eso siempre es muy agotador para mí. Este tipo de cosas son para levantar el ánimo un poco.

7: "Cargaste esto en el estadio". Para mí, era MUY importante explicar cómo había cargado el taladro en el apartamento. Tengo la impresión que esa es otra señal de que yo era un escritor novato. No creo que me preocupara por detalles así hoy en día. Dudo que alguien más se fije, pero ahora me parece gracioso al recordarlo.

9-12: Toda esta sección se movió de aquí para allá. Está todo ahí, todo terminó incluido en el cómic, pero las cosas se atrasaron, se adelantaron y se cambiaron. El único verdadero problema es que la amputación del brazo termina cayendo en la página 11, que es una página de la DERECHA. Es algo que debes evitar si has prestado atención a estas entradas. Tendría que haber sido un paso de página. Bochornoso. Casi tan bochornoso como la nota que pone, "¿le mete cosas por el culo?" ¡Mamá, papá, soy escritor de cómics! ¿Estáis orgullos de mí?

13: La trama se repite aquí. "Arrranca", heh. Bueno, es posible que escribiera esto antes y luego lo moviera a la página 9 sin tacharlo mientras completaba más la trama. MUY a menudo estas cosas no se escriben de manera lineal. De hecho, muchas veces completo PRIMERO las páginas 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 y 22, ya que son los grandes momentos de pasos de página. Luego completo el resto. En fin... tengo claro que mientras escribía el guion, se me ocurrió lo de sacarle los ojos que sucede en la página 13. ¡Menos mal que lo pensé justo a tiempo!

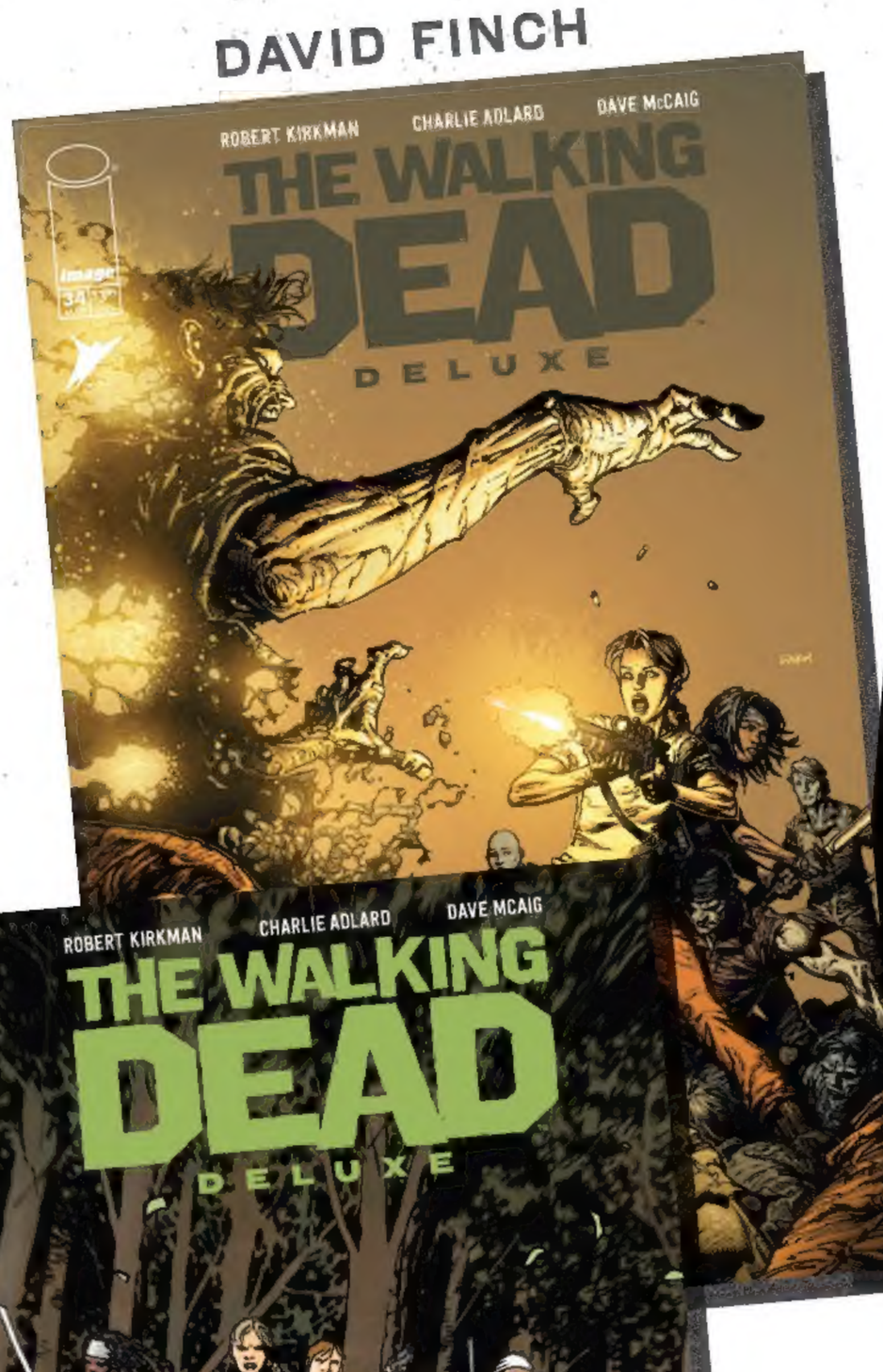
14-18: Esta sección cambió bastante. Cuando me metí al guion, quería tomarme las cosas con más calma. Darle más tiempo a Michonne para que se dejara llevar por las emociones después de lo que había hecho. Para demostrar lo humana que sigue siendo. Esto no es algo que disfrutara. Y sí, Michonne le cortó la pilila al Gobernador. Creo que todos estaremos de acuerdo en que se lo merecía.

22: En cierto modo echo en falta esta frase, pero veo por qué lo cambié. Es más intrigante creer que Michonne puede estar desmoronándose después de lo que ha hecho. Decir "Espero que no." significa que podría torturarle un poco más, es más de "tipo duro de peli de acción", pero yo no buscaba eso.

PORTADA
ARTHUR ADAMS
COLORES NATHAN FAIRBAIRN

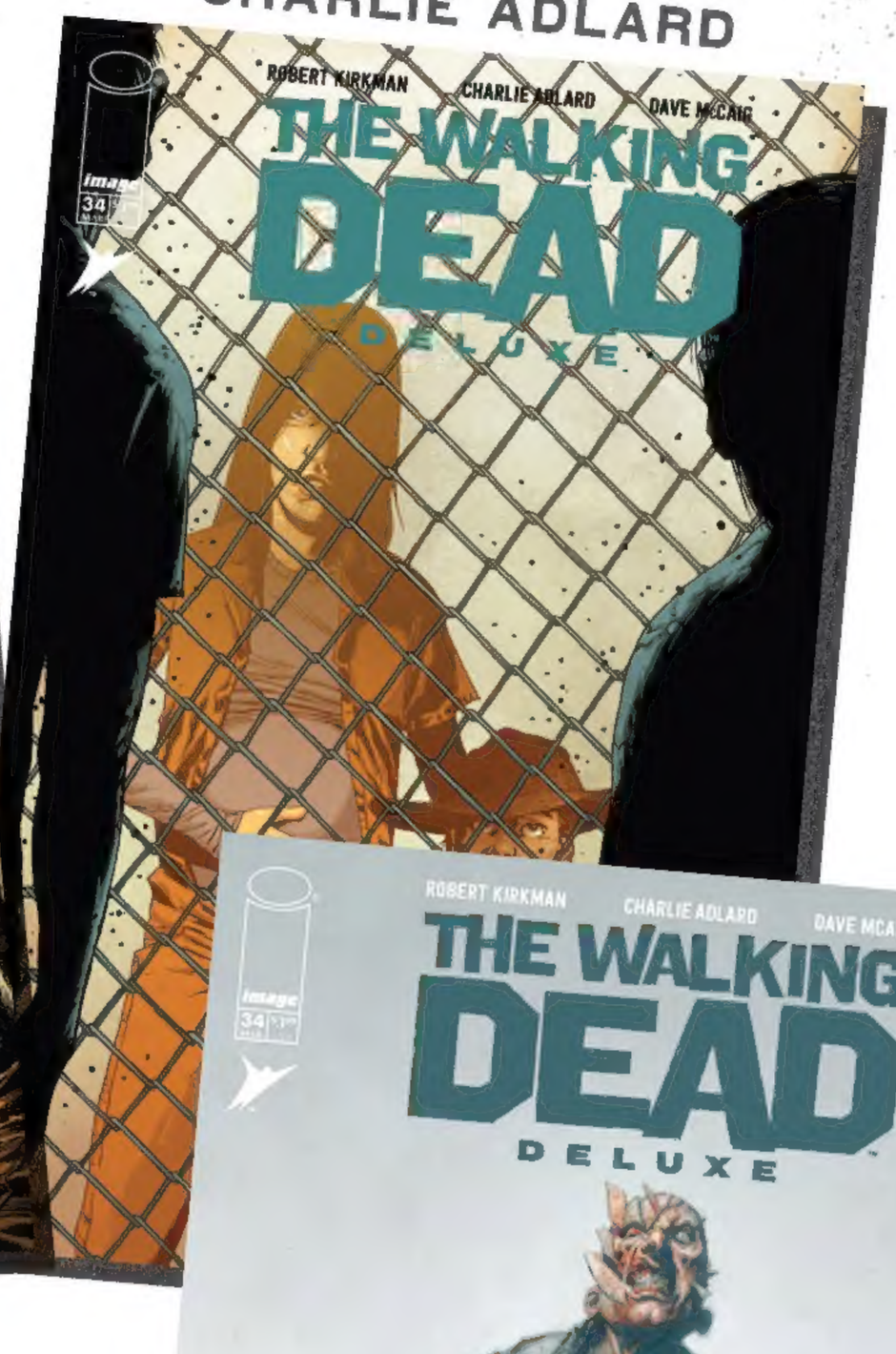
"Algo no va *bien* aquí. Vigílala, ¿vale?"

DAVID FINCH



CHARLIE ADLARD

CHARLIE ADLARD



JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO

NÚMERO 34

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